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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT "SVIT" National Corporation in  
Otrokovice

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- Several plants in Otrokovice are subordinated to "SVIT" National Corporation in Gottwaldov (Zlin). The General Directorate of the "SVIT" National Corporation is located in Gottwaldov (Zlin). The directorate for the plant in Otrokovice is located in the plant and the director of the Otrokovice plant is Josef Janik.
- Production in these plants consists primarily of upper and sole leather. Artificial leather and special artificial material for the production of ladies' handbags, called "Ingelit", is also produced there. Paper mills, mills for production of felt and various textile products, mills for dyeing of textiles, spinning mills, carpenter shops, shops for production of chemical colors and various chemicals, machine halls, storehouses for tires and leather products and storehouses for finished leather are also located in Otrokovice. A new tannery was built during 1951 and put into operation for production of sole leather. Cowhides tanned there were of Brazilian and Argentine origin which were bought and delivered via Switzerland. Finished sole leather was stored in the main storehouse in Otrokovice. The new tannery produced only sole leather, 4000 quintals of sole leather per shift. Other products of the plants in Otrokovice are as follows: Ladies' garments, stockings, furniture and various rubber products.
- The whole enterprise in Gottwaldov employs about 60,000 persons. The tannery itself employs about 300 persons, 80% of whom are skilled workers, 30 are administrative employees and the rest are helpers.
- The highest wage of a skilled worker in the "SVIT" enterprise was 7,000 Kcs; the lowest wage of helpers amounted to 4,000 Kcs. The hardest work and the highest wages were in the tannery.
- About 80% of the employees of the plant were card-bearing Communists, 15% of whom were faithful Communists. The latter were mostly better paid employees.
- Working hours were different at the various plants as some plants worked in three shifts and some only in one shift. Employees of the tannery worked only in one shift, 0600 to 1400 hours.
- The plant in Otrokovice is connected by a branch line with the main railroad Prerov-Breclav.
- The "SVIT" enterprise in Otrokovice has a plant guard and militia. Both the guard and militia are equipped with rifles and pistols. The tannery had a guard consisting of eight men who were on duty at the gate. The workers' militia consisted of 500 men, equipped with rifles. The workers' militia was divided into

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four companies and was on duty only during the night. Members of the workers' militia participated in a so-called "march of peace" which took place in Otrokovice. All plants of "SVIT", National Corporation had about 5,000 men in the workers' militia.

9. [REDACTED] raw hides are imported from Argentina and Brazil via Switzerland. The main storehouses of hides and other raw materials are located in the plant in Otrokovice. Coal is shipped by rail from Ostrava. Water is supplied by the plant's own waterworks. The plant is driven by electricity which is supplied by the plant's power works.

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10. The workers are not friendly toward the Communist regime for three main reasons:
- (a) The workers did not get a Christmas bonus for 1951 as they were promised.
  - (b) Special food ration cards for hard work are granted only to very few workers; for instance, in the tannery only the workers who personally handled at least 60 quintals of material every ~~eight hours~~ were granted such special rations. These special food rations for hard workers are called "T-4".
  - (c) Since January 1952 new work standards have been introduced which resulted in the reduction of wages and in the work standards for one shift being raised an additional 3,000 kilograms.

The propaganda of the Czechoslovak Communist Party in the tannery has been very poor, lately. As a result, the workers took very little interest in politics. Communist propaganda was concentrated mostly on young workers who had to undergo special political education in boarding schools.

11. The construction department of "SVIT" in Otrokovice is building new buildings at the airfield. In the beginning of 1952, for instance, a new brick building was built. It was 100 x 40 meters, had a large hall inside, and had a flat roof.

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ENCLOSURE (A): The Plant of "SVIT", National Corporation in Otrokovice With Accompanying Legend.

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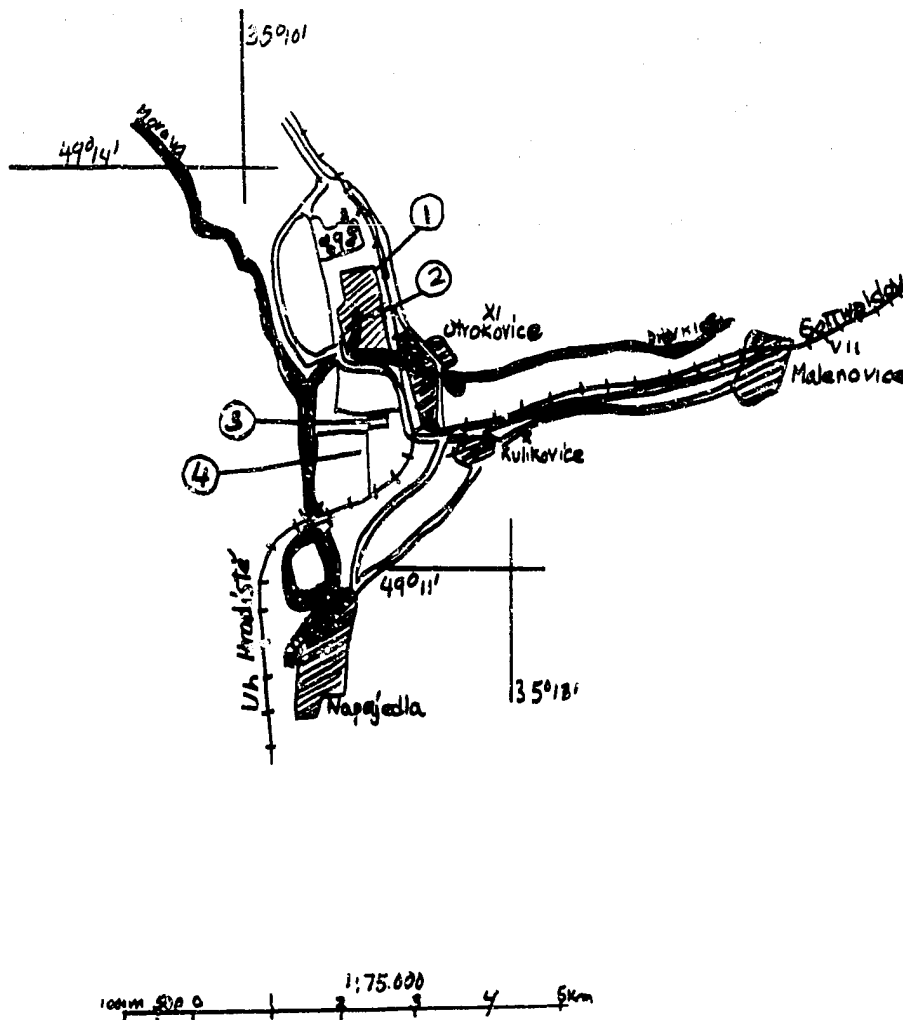
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ENCLOSURE (A)

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## THE PLANT OF "SVIT", NATIONAL CORPORATION IN OTROKOVICE WITH ACCOMPANYING LEGEND



## Legend:

- 1... The plant of "SVIT" National Corporation (headquarters in Gottwaldov) in Otrokovice.
- 2....A water canal, reinforced by concrete.
- 3... Area where the construction department of "SVIT" is building new halls.
- 4.... Grass-covered area of the airfield "SVIT".

Notes: The plant is enclosed by a wire fence, two meters high, fixed on concrete poles. The plant is also equipped with a health department and a surgical section for eyes, ears, etc.

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